

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA

P.O. BOX 184

LAGUNA, NEW MEXICO 87026

FILE COPY

Office of:

The Governor  
The Secretary  
The Treasurer

(505) 243-7616  
(505) 552-6654  
(505) 552-6655

Confidential Claim Retracted

AUTHORIZED BY:                     

DATE: 5/16/13

March 7, 1985

Mr. Roland E. Johnson, Superintendent  
Laguna Agency  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
P.O. Box 1448  
Laguna, New Mexico 87026

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This letter follows your discussion with Ron Solimon, POL Reclamation Project Coordinator, concerning the Pueblo's contemplated procedures for ensuring the successful reclamation of the Jackpile/Paguate Mine and for providing for fiscal responsibility and accountability. I understand that BIA/Central Office is interested in any plans that we may have developed to date. The Pueblo's consultant, JACOBS ENGINEERING, will be making a presentation to the Council on March 21, 1985, which is after the deadline you are operating under. As you know, the Pueblo has asked JACOBS to develop management scenarios based on the following business arrangements: (1) turnkey contract; (2) joint-venture; (3) tribal venture; or (4) tribal venture and a management contract with a reputable engineering construction firm. Given the Pueblo's history of self-determination, it is highly likely that it will choose to set-up a separate mining/reclamation company and acquire the necessary management support and technical expertise. The proceeds of a settlement agreement would more than likely be placed in a trust fund so that said proceeds and interest could not be accessed by the Pueblo until the reclamation project has been successfully completed. I believe that this type of arrangement would be conducive to effective management of the settlement proceeds as well as the reclamation activities. Under no circumstances would the settlement proceeds be made available for per capita distribution, except for that portion directly related to the damages to homes and structures in the Village of Paguate. I plan to request a damage assessment by the BIA/Area Office on said homes & structures so that the Pueblo will know exactly what amounts may be payable to the individual claimants.



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I trust that the above-stated general plan of action will satisfy the concerns of Central Office until such time as the Pueblo receives actual written advice from its consultants and advisors.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA

*Chester T. Fernando*  
Chester T. Fernando  
Governor